

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Support for the amendment to the claims can be found, e.g., at page 3, lines 16-20.

Claims 20-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Sobata, which corresponds to EP 0 454 361 mentioned at page 3 of the office action. Applicants respectfully traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that Sobata does not specifically disclose that the process can be conducted without a precipitation tank, a significant advantage of the presently claimed invention. Note that Sobata appears to require a precipitation step (see col. 15, lines 13-44).

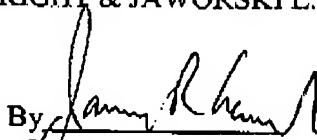
Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

None of the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections are believed to apply to the new claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-DNAG-297-US.

Respectfully submitted

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